# ELL Newsletter

**Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)**
**Winter Issue**
**December 2008**

## Important Dates 2008-09

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| Dec. 12, 2008 | ACCESS materials shipped to Districts |
| Dec. 16, 2008 | Districts receive ACCESS materials |
| Jan. 5 – Feb. 13, 2009 | ACCESS Testing Window |
| Feb.13-20, 2009 | Districts pack completed test materials |
| Feb. 20, 2009 | Districts ship ACCESS materials to MT |
| April 21 – 24, 2009 | ACCESS reports shipped to districts |
| April 23-May 21, 2009 | ACCESS Corrections Window |

## Helpful Resources

- www.thinkfinity.org - This site offers free, exciting, top quality materials for educators and parents. It has standards-based lesson plans focusing on different content areas. The site also provides interactive games and activities to help keep students engaged in learning.
- http://www.thinkfinity.org/holidays.aspx - If you want to learn more about the different holidays you might want to check out this site. It provides creative and informational activities to help your students learn about holiday celebrations.
- http://www.colorincolorado.org - This is a Spanish/English bilingual Website. It has a new section called Building Strong Parent-Teacher Partnerships. This section has lots of great resources on topics about increasing parent involvement and parent teacher conferences. It also includes resources for working with adolescent ELLs.
- www.brainpop.com This site provides seven minute video clips on several topics related to all content areas and is a great way to build background knowledge for ELLs.
- www.cal.org/resources/pubs/enhance.html Enhancing English Language Learning in Elementary Classrooms provides professional development for teachers in a variety of areas: mainstream classes, self-contained ESL classes, bilingual programs and preservice education.
- www.cal.org/resources/pubs/enrich.html Enriching Content Classes for Secondary ESOL Students shows teachers how to develop flexible, practical, age- and content-appropriate language instruction for all students, with a focus on the needs of English language learners in academic courses.
- <http://www.cal.org/services/profDev.html> Learn more about the workshops and training sessions designed to help educators work effectively with language learners.

## Training Opportunities - Webinars:

If you are looking for some professional development opportunities why not look into webinars? They are very informative sessions that you can view alone or with a small group. They make great opportunities for training staff at the school or district level. This site www.schoolsmovingup.net/onlineevents has several archived webinars for your viewing including:

- Quality Teaching for English Learners: High Quality & High Support
- English Learners in Secondary Mathematics: Rigor & Excellence
- Doing what works: Teaching Elementary School English Learners
- Taking Center Stage—Act II: Building Effective Programs for English Learners in the Middle Grades

## Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs® Webinar Training – Archived

This fall, WIDA offered three WebEx trainings and now has a recorded version if you were unable to participate and still need the training on the topic of the new Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs®. It covers the new test format.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** These webinar sessions are NOT sufficient training to be certified to administer the Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs®. ALL kindergarten test administrators MUST be retrained on the new test format via the online test administration training course on the WIDA Website. Anyone who will administer the kindergarten test also must pass the kindergarten component quiz before administering the Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs®. Kindergarten quiz scores from prior to September 30, 2008 are no longer considered valid for ACCESS for ELLs® certification.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Q. We have just switched to Infinite Campus (IC), and our staff needs training to use this new student data system. Is there a cost for these trainings?**
**A.** KDE has paid a flat rate for all districts that have gone live with IC to have unlimited use of IC WebExes **for the 2008-09 school year**. If there is a charge listed for the class, just mark "other" and enter "prepaid." The link is
http://icu.infinitecampus.com

**Q. What if a parent or student refuses the ACCESS test?**
**A.** The ACCESS for ELLs® is the yearly assessment for English language proficiency for English language learners in Kentucky. Parental permission is not required to give this large-scale assessment, which is mandated by the federal government. This assessment is treated the same as the Kentucky Core Content Assessments that all students take in the spring.

**Q. What is the difference between translating and interpreting?**
**A.** Translating refers to changing a written document from one language to another. Interpreting refers to oral communication.

**Q. What are some do's and don'ts to remember when using translators or interpreters?**
**A**. For legal purposes, it is recommended that a certified translator or interpreter be used for confidentiality reasons. The translator/interpreter must be fluent in both languages and have the technical vocabulary required to accurately communicate. Involving a family member, especially a sibling or other child, is not encouraged.

**Q. Are there any translating resources available to help districts if they do not have access to anyone who speaks the language needed?**
**A.** If you do not have access to interpreters for the necessary languages in your district there are some translating services available. You should use caution when using a translating service and verify that the document is translated correctly using the appropriate dialect and that the content is correct. Here are some services that may be helpful as resources:

www.languageline.com is a fee-based service that provides access to certified interpreters in more than 170 languages on a 24/7 basis.

www.imtranslator.com is a good site for translation services in almost every language. It actually speaks your translation in the language of your choice. This is a good way to communicate with parents at parent conferences. Just use your computer and speakers.

www.atanet.org/onlinedirectories/individuals.php provides access to the American Translators Association (ATA) Directory of Translation and Interpreting Services

## Disproportionate Representation and RTI
Over-representation in special education of students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds has been a national problem for more than 30 years. One solution to this problem is to ensure that effective research-based instruction is delivered in the general education classes to all students. You may be familiar with this as the base level for the Kentucky Response to Intervention (RTI) or the updated version called the Kentucky System of Intervention (KSI). For more information or a copy go to:
http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Kentucky+System+of+Interventions/

The National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems (NCCRESt) has just released a new practitioner brief called *A Cultural, Linguistic, and Ecological Approach to Response to Intervention with English Language Learners (March 2008).* This is a valuable introductory guide for anyone wanting to learn more about the topic.
For more information and resources visit
http://nccrest.org/publications/briefs.html

## TransACT News
TransACT is a Web-based system available at no cost to all Kentucky public schools and districts in Kentucky. It contains more than 130 forms and letters in many languages to assist schools in communicating with parents and families of diverse student populations. All documents are personalized for your district. This service helps you meet the federal No child Left Behind (NCLB) and Office of Civil Rights requirements to communicate with parents in a language they understand.

TransACT has embarked on a new partnership with Lingo Systems in order to offer an improved custom translation service. Learn more about this new collaboration and how it can impact the work you do in your schools by visiting
http://www.transact.com/

## For More Information on Kentucky's ELLs

**Shelda Hale (**502) 564-2106, ext. 4103
shelda.hale@education.ky.gov

**Sonia Upton (**502) 564-2106, ext. 4102
sonia.upton@education.ky.gov